

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH T. TATE**

Re: *Section 272(f)(1) Sunset of the BOC Separate Affiliate and Related Requirements; 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review Separate Affiliate Requirements of Section 64.1903 of the Commission's Rules; Petition of AT&T Inc. for Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) with Regard to Certain Dominant Carrier Regulations for In-Region, Interexchange Services, WC Docket No. 02-112, CC Docket No. 00-175, WC Docket No. 06-120, Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order (Aug. 31, 2007).*

In this decision we establish a new framework to govern the provision of in-region, long distance services by the Bell Operating Companies and their independent incumbent local exchange carrier affiliates. Once again we recognize the significant competition that exists in the long distance market. I support moving away from regulation where the record shows that a competitive market exists, rendering those regulations unnecessary. Today's decision takes a carefully balanced approach, providing regulatory relief to the incumbent Bell Operating Companies, allowing them to respond to marketplace demands efficiently and effectively, but ensuring that less intrusive or less costly regulation remains that protects important consumer interests and competition. Accordingly, I support today's Order removing legacy regulations where robust competition has rendered those regulations no longer necessary to maintain a competitive market.